

a raw material reforming unit for steam-reforming a raw material to be reformed and producing a reformed gas containing hydrogen as a principal component, including a heat source that generates heat by combustion of a fuel gas, operable to directly obtain heat for the steam reformation reaction from said heat source;

a shift reaction unit for decreasing CO contained in the reformed gas, that was produced in said raw material reforming unit, by water-gas-shift reaction; and

a CO oxidation unit for further degreasing CO contained in the resultant reformed gas, that was treated in said shift reaction unit, by oxidation,


at least two units, said raw material reforming unit and said shift reaction unit contain different catalysts, and said shift reaction unit and said CO oxidation unit being arranged in a manner that said shift reaction unit and said CO oxidation unit can be indirectly heated by heat transfer from the heat source of said raw material reforming unit, and further said CO oxidation unit being arranged in a position outside [around] said raw material unit.

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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